

SPACE DEBRIS SYMPOSIUM (A6)
Political, legal, Institutional and Economic Aspects of Space Debris Mitigation and Removal (8)

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LIABILITY IN THE CONTEXT OF SPACE DEBRIS

Abstract

The paper will discuss the issue of liability for the space debris which can be divided into two categories: liability for existing space debris and liability for remediation of space debris. Liability for space objects is governed by Article VII of the Outer Space Treaty and Article VII's extension through the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects. According to the current interpretation of both treaties responsibility for damage caused by space objects in outer space rests with a launching state, but in practice space debris as currently understood seems to be exempt... What kind of "legal protection" do we have against space debris? The paper will analyze the legal provisions on liability for the space debris.